

# O'G alumna gains national recognition

Jory Kunzman  
Sport Co-Editor

University of Northern Iowa senior linebacker, Josh Mahoney, has strived for excellence his entire life. The 2005 O'Gorman graduate may not have been the star player on a national championship team, but the redshirt senior's accomplishments over the past five years both on and off the field are wor-

thy of recognition.

Mahoney was a finalist for the 2009 William V. Campbell Trophy. He was among the 16 players selected from a group of 154 semifinalists who play college football from the levels of NAIA up to NCAA Division I.

Other finalists included Texas' Colt McCoy and Florida's Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow, the

eventual winner.

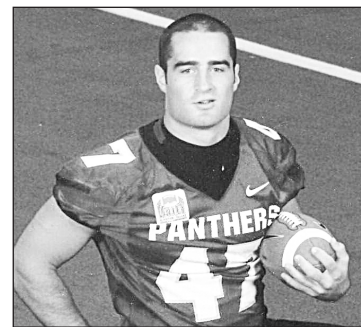
"I am incredibly humbled just to be mentioned in the same breath as some of the best student athletes in the nation," said Mahoney.

To be nominated for this trophy, often known as the Academic Heisman, players in their final year of eligibility must be nominated by their school, have a minimum

GPA of 3.8 on a 4.0 scale, have outstanding football skills and demonstrate strong leadership and citizenship.

Mahoney was just one of three finalists to carry a perfect 4.0 GPA. Of those three, Mahoney was one of only two finalists to also pursue a double major.

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Josh Mahoney



The Career and Technical Education Academy will be open fall of 2010.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Sioux Falls School District to open two schools starting August 2010

Domenica Gilbert  
Becky Jarding

In hopes of preparing students for a changing world, the Sioux Falls School District has decided to open two new, distinct schools. The Career and Technical Education Academy (CTE Academy) and New Technical High School (NTH) will be open to students starting August 2010.

"We are committed to offering multiple pathways to achieve our mission of educating and preparing each student to succeed in our changing world," said

Dr. Pam Homan, superintendent of the Sioux Falls public schools.

Unlike any other school in the district, NTH will educate its students through project based learning. Although they will still take standardized tests such as the ACT and Dakota STEP, students will primarily be tested on their projects rather than on traditional exams.

"Students work in teams and instruction is focused on interdisciplinary projects rather than discrete courses of study," said Homan. "All projects are designed around the South Dakota con-

tent standards."

Beginning this August, a freshman class selected from a lottery system will attend NTH. The class will be comprised of about 115 students, and it will be the first class to graduate from the school. In each following year, the school plans on admitting a new class of the same number.

NTH will be located on the campus of Southeast Technical Institute (STI). Despite the school's location on a college campus, NTH students will have

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## Scroll surveys South Dakota schools' spirit

Shilpa Chandran  
Assistant Editor

In the last issue of the *The Knight Scroll*, the *Scroll* staff distributed 200 surveys to the O'Gorman student body to evaluate school spirit. The results roughly fit into a classic bell curve; the majority of students felt school spirit was simply at an average, while very few believed there was either extremely high spirit or none.

For the second part of this spirit series, the *Scroll* staff contacted numerous students from various schools across the state. They were asked several questions about their opinion of school spirit at their schools.

Students contacted belong to a variety of schools, including Baltic High School, Rapid City Stevens, Custer High School, Vermillion High School, Jefferson High School in Elk Point, Sioux Falls Roosevelt and Sioux Falls Lincoln.

The results showed that although there were some differences between school spirit at O'Gorman as opposed to other schools, there were also a few consistencies. Sports have continuously been named as the top priority in most schools, while fine arts are not nearly as supported.

"I think the sports definitely get a lot more support," said Nicole Loe, a sophomore at Baltic High School. "The band has had the same uniforms for years, and the fine arts don't get a whole lot of funding, but they're not completely left in the dark."

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## Severe weather affects student activities

Nicole Scheier  
Faith Co-Editor

Throughout the past few months, numerous activities have been hindered or completely canceled due to the weather conditions. These activities not only include the ones in school, but also those outside of school.

With the unfavorable weather conditions, Dance Expressions, a local dance studio, canceled practice four times during the month of January. Less practice can create complications, especially for

the senior dance team at Dance Expressions because they only have practice twice a week.

"If we aren't able to practice, we can't get any better," said junior Lindsey Carson. "Then when practice is rescheduled, we have to work even harder to try to catch up."

According to Carson, when practice is canceled and she is trapped inside the house, there is nothing else to do besides homework.

"I'd rather be out doing things rather than waiting for more snow

to fall," said Carson.

Even on the days that practice is not canceled due to the weather, the participants of Dance Expressions still face complications. The drawback is that the road conditions develop a need for the dance team to leave their house earlier or otherwise be late for practice.

"Fortunately, this year no dance competitions were canceled related to the weather," said Carson.

However, the canceled practices due to the weather led to a

long day at the dance competition in Sioux City.

Although the weather creates a negative impact on indoor activities, it provides convenient weather for outdoor activities, such as snowboarding.

"With all of the snow we got, it was good being able to snowboard on some," said junior Michael Ruppert. "It was ten times better than anything I have ever been on."

"We need this much snow every year; it makes the winter ten times more fun," said Ruppert.



ALUMNUS  
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Mahoney is the son of Assistant Principal Mrs. Joan Mahoney. He was an Honor Roll student in his time at O’Gorman and has been on the Dean’s List his entire career at Northern Iowa.

When other students were relaxing or partying, Mahoney was spending time in one of the many activities he has been involved in.

“While I don’t necessarily get to do the types of things normal college students do, I think the trade-off is worth it,” said Mahoney.

Coaches that Mahoney has played for describe him as an intelligent young man. O’Gorman head football coach and uncle of Mahoney, Mr. Steve Kueter, said that Mahoney’s high intelligence is what set him apart from the other players he has coached.

Both Kueter and UNI coach Mr. Mark Farley said that Mahoney has an incredible knowledge of the game, and he enjoys mentoring younger players on their respective teams.

When Mahoney joined the UNI football team, he was not a linebacker or on the defense. Mahoney was going to be the team’s fullback, but due to a move made by the coaching staff in the spring of his freshman

year, he was moved to the position he plays today.

According to Farley, Mahoney’s toughness and knowledge of the game made him a better fit at line-backer.

Mahoney approached his new role with the team with great enthusiasm.

“College fullback is a brutal position,” said Mahoney. “I would much rather be the hammer and not the nail.”

Mahoney also has committed time to service in the community and in ravaged areas of the world. He has provided relief to storm victims in the Cedar Falls, Iowa area.

Mahoney and two of his teammates also spent time in a small mountain village in Nicaragua helping reforest areas that had been destroyed by slash and burn farming.

In addition, Mahoney is also a three-year volunteer with the NCAA’s Just Read Program and the Special Olympics. He has been a seminar leader for the Iowa Character Counts program. Mahoney, who serves as co-president of the UNI Pre-Law Club, plans to attend law school next year.

Being the best he can be and staying true to who he is motivates Mahoney. For inspiratoin, he reads the poem “The Man in the Glass.”

He was first introduced to the poem when sophomore football coach Steve Krier read it before a game.

“I constantly question if what I am doing is making myself a better person,” said Mahoney.

“I want to approach life with enthusiasm and energy so that at the end of the day, I don’t have to question myself about whether or not I have given my best.”

According to Farley, when Mahoney first arrived on campus, he was just a smart kid looking for his place.

Today, Mahoney is a leader, a captain and a mentor to his teammates. Younger players often go to Mahoney for guidance.

“Josh doesn’t want to be just another student athlete,” said Farley. “He wants to be a member of the community. He wants to be a member of this university.”

Despite being recognized on a national level this past year, Mahoney has not forgotten where he came from, and he will always cherish his high school memories.

“Some of the most influential people in my life, besides my mother, were my high school teachers and coaches. I hope the students now appreciate the opportunities they have,” said Mahoney.

Letter to the Editors

The November issue of the *Knight Scroll* featured an interesting article on the number of absences at O’Gorman during the month of October.

While we did record a large number of student absences, especially during the second week of the month, we had no days when the number of students reached 200, as the article stated.

On October 14, we recorded 120 student absences due to illness. Approximately five other students were gone for other reasons, for a total of 125. On the 15th, the number of students out with illness had dropped to 110, and on the 16th there were 108 out sick.

One other statistic from the article gave me pause. “In the past month, the school has experienced the most absences ever recorded in its history.”

Absences due to illness have certainly been high, but I would be very hesitant to use the phrase “most ever recorded” to describe what we experienced in October.

I will agree that it was a very busy week for us, and I certainly hope that the worst is behind us, at least as far as the flu goes.

I enjoy the *Knight Scroll* very much and would like to commend each member of the staff for their efforts in creating a quality school newspaper.

Sincerely,

Patricia Andersen

Attendance Coordinator

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Letters to the Editor

All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

Editorial Policy

All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the *Knight Scroll*.

Scroll Fun Find

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Spirit  
Lent  
Vianney

Martyrs  
Band  
Swimming  
Gymnastics

Snowboard  
Quietdrive  
Debate



# St. Vianney production performs at O'Gorman

Christina Engeman  
Opinion Editor

Several weeks ago O'Gorman High School was fortunate enough to have *Vianney, the story of St. John*, presented on the auditorium stage. This one-man-show portrayed the life of the 19th century saint and brought to life the mission of St. John Vianney.

St. John Vianney was focused on saving the souls in Ars, France and re-inspiring Catholicism in the town. The Vianney Movement is working towards a similar goal.

The movement aims to impact all vocations and re-ignite the fire in many people's faith lives. Particularly, the vocation of the priesthood is emphasized.

St. John's story shows that any man of any education and background can become a priest if it is God's will.

St. John, as showed in the play, was not the most intelligent boy in

his class.

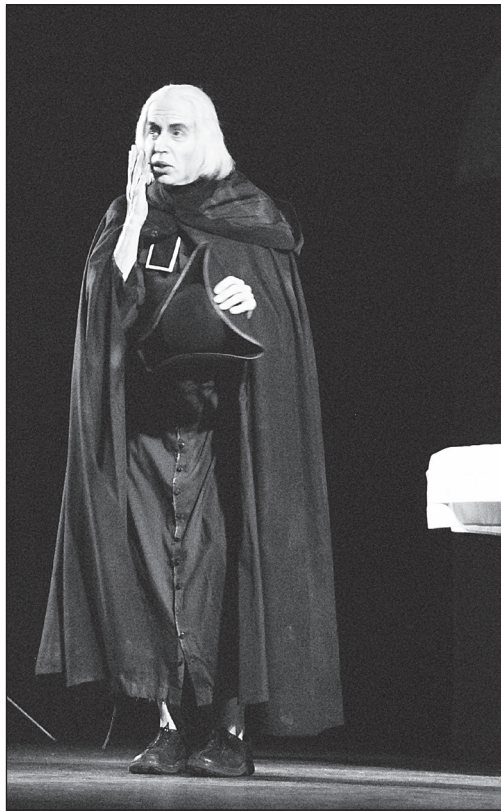
However, he persisted and worked hard to become a priest because it was his calling.

Many students can easily relate to St. John's story, and hopefully they were able to take something from this unique experience.

Whether it inspired someone to consider the religious life or just strengthened one's belief in God, having *Vianney* presented at O'Gorman was a positive experience for students.

"I've noticed they [students] seem touched or challenged," said Leonardo Defilippis, who stars as St. Vianney in the production. "They are feeling some of the same pressures as he did."

St. John Vianney had an important message for people that is still relevant to current times. Just as St. Vianney grew up during the French Revolution, our society is going through a revolution of morals and religion.



Leonardo Defilippis plays St. Vianney.

## New groups allow students to discuss faith with friends

Chris Oligmueller  
Sports Co-Editor

This year, Campus Ministry has been trying to find a way to allow people to express their religious faith with their peers. Campus Ministry Coordinator Mr. Brian Feller found a way to allow that to happen.

The Guys' Group started this year with Feller as the head of the group. Meanwhile, the ENDOW group was started last year by previous Campus Ministry Coordinator Jennifer Moser and has been continued by Miss Sara Supalla.

"I chose to start the guy's discussion because it is good, meaningful, masculine, faithful, challenging, fun, fraternal, and there is a desire for it," said Feller.

Both groups meet frequently in the mornings before school. The Guys' Group meets on Thursdays while ENDOW meets in two different groups, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. During each of their sessions, the religious groups discuss, pray and eat while they sit and enjoy each other's company.

"With the guys, I hope that each participant becomes with confidence a man in Christ, a man of the Church, and a man for others," said Feller.

Feller also added that the best way to entirely understand the groups is to come to one of their meetings. The rolls will be waiting.

# Martyrs not extinct, still exist in modern world

Christina Engeman  
Opinion Editor

Ever since the beginning of Christianity, followers of Christ have been tortured and killed for believing in Him.

Unknown, or perhaps just overlooked in society, Christians are still the subject of the majority of religious persecution in the modern world.

Dying for one's religion, also known as martyrdom, seems like an archaic act that only happened in the early years of the Church. Most stories and accounts of such acts seem so unrealistic and strange that it is hard to imagine that cruelty like that still exists in present society.

While it is true that people aren't exactly being stoned to death anymore, most reported cases of persecution are classified under robbing, drug trafficking and gunfire.

According to an annual list published by the Vatican, 26 Catholic priests, religious and lay members were killed in 2005, and those are only the known and reported cases. Many of these deaths were related to drug trafficking and rebel guerillas.

To many Americans, martyrdom seems surreal.

The media does not draw any attention to modern persecution and religious discrimination, and



Priests are some of the modern martyrs today.

the probable reasoning behind this makes sense.

"Three things distinguish anti-Christian persecution and discrimination around the world," said Denver's Archbishop Charles Chaput to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in an interview with Susan Brinkmann. "First, it's ugly. Second, it's growing. And third, the mass media generally ignores or downplays its gravity."

It's easy to understand why this information is downplayed, yet hard to grasp why persecution still exists in civilized societies.

In countries such as North Korea, Rwanda, and Sudan, governments are behind the torturing

acts.

Over the course of 50 years, 300,000 Christians in North Korea have disappeared and 200 religious men and women were killed in Rwanda for refusing to deny Christ.

"Christians are, in fact, the most persecuted religious group in the world today, with the greatest number of victims," said Nina Shea, director of Freedom House's Puebla Program on Religious Freedom in an interview with Brinkmann.

Although it seems uncommon in America, persecution does exist. It may be, however, in such an extreme way as seen in developing or communist countries.

# Christian acts add meaning to Lent season

Molly Donohue  
Activities Co-Editor

Lent is typically a time of reflection, when people sacrifice things they enjoy in an attempt to better themselves. In a way, it is the same thing year after year.

"Fasting is proposed to us as an instrument to restore our friendship with God," according to Pope Benedict XVI.

This scenario happens to many people, causing frustration when they are unable to keep their Lenten promises.

"I tried to give up TV, but it was hard and it didn't work out," said senior Amanda Dissing.

However, people can improve themselves with the addition of positive Christian practices to their lives, as well as by giving things up.

By doing something different for Lent, people can feel better about themselves for doing something good, especially if one slips up on trying to give up something.

Jesus' message to us here on Earth is to serve others. We could serve others during Lent by doing

what Jesus wants us to do.

"Yes, adding acts of charity during Lent is good, but this only can happen because we first deny something of ourselves that then becomes part of the gift to the other," said Mr. Brian Feller, O'Gorman Campus Minister.

Some ideas for people who want to add things during Lent are to help others and do things they rarely do.

"The greatest prayer a person can make is the offering of Jesus to the Father through the Holy Mass," said Feller.

Simple things like helping with the family laundry and the dinner dishes at home are wonderful examples of adding something and giving of yourself.

"I would go volunteer my time by helping others," said Dissing.

A simple act of kindness toward another person is a wonderful thing to add.

Adding something for Lent should only happen if you take something away first, like Mr. Feller said.

So give something up this Lent, add another and it will make the Lenten season worthwhile and more meaningful than the last.



# National qualifying tournament approaches

O’Gorman interpers and debaters aim to make National Forensics League nationals

Domenica Gilbert  
Co-Editor

Interviewed: Rachel Mullin  
Public Forum Debater

Interviewed: Mrs. Gwen Skar  
Debate Coach

Interviewed: Joey Johnson  
Drama and Duo Interper

With interp and debate teams entering their second seasons of competition, O’Gorman students are working harder than ever to get members of their teams to place at the Rushmore District National Forensics League Qualifier Tournament, or Quals.

Four students or teams in each category are sent from each school. Students who attend show much talent, dedicate their time and perform well at other tournaments. Categories range from humor, extemp, drama, public forum and others.

Members and coaches from interp and debate teams were interviewed to find out what students are doing in preperation for the state tournament.

**Q. What are the team expectations for Quals this year?**

A. The team expectations for Quals this year are pretty high. We have three really solid public forum teams that could do amazing at Quals. It just kind of depends on who people hit and in what rounds.

**Q. What are your personal goals for Quals?**

A. My personal expectation is just to do the best I can and have fun with it. I usually don’t do very well when I take it too seriously.

**Q. Is there anything you would like to say to O’Gorman students?**

I’d just add that anyone who has the remotest of interest in arguing or joining debate should really think about going out for the team next year. It really is a lot different than what people expect.

**Q. What do the team members do differently now that Quals is approaching?**

A. We have a lot more practice rounds, and the kids are working hard. The students are also working on their cases to find any loopholes.

**Q. What are your expectations for Quals?**

A. Although students haven’t placed, their confidence is growing as they get more experience. I think we’ll do really well this year.

**Q. Is there anything you have your students do differently than last year?**

A. Yes; we require all of our students to compete in extempt, unless they’re already double-entered with interp. It’s a great skill to have.

**Q. Is there anything else you’d like to add?**

A. Our debaters are awesome. They’re great kids.

**Q. How has the team performed this year?**

A. I would say that we are a little behind last year’s pace, but we had many juniors and sophomores step up to the plate. Even though we have not been as successful as the years past, the team is still a force to be reckoned with.

**Q. Do you know who will be going to Quals?**

A. Well, Fester has her ideas of who will be going, but for the most part, the four slots that she needs to fill for each category are up for grabs.

**Q. Is there anything else you’d like to add?**

A. We have had a great year this year and we look to finish strong. I think O’G might just be able to qualify in several categories. We just need to put our minds to it, and we can do anything.

# SD All-State Band seeks competitive, talented students

Ellen Nelson  
Faith Co-Editor

Marching band may be over, but the band has not been inactive.

Since the season ended, O’Gorman High School’s band members have switched their focus to this year’s All-State Band competition.

Every year, students from schools across the state of South Dakota audition for All-State.

Auditioning for All-State is not required of band members. This year 27 students from O’Gorman have auditioned.

“We actually have six students that have been in it (All-State) before,” said Dr. Duane Niles, band director at O’Gorman.

In addition to the six current O’Gorman students who had positions in the 2008-2009 All-State Band, two more students, who graduated last year, were in the performance as well.

Last year Thomas Johnson, Debbie Schulte, Marie Yokan, Emma Enderson, Katie Ridder, Catie Yokan, Amy Neidich and Laura Bushman represented O’Gorman at All-State.

However, just because these students have made All-State in the past does not mean they are guaranteed a position in this year’s band.

Students must keep practicing to earn their spot again.

“I usually start preparing

the summer before,” said junior Cassie Tomac. “The hardcore practicing really doesn’t start until about two months before hand.”

Niles is more than willing to help the students prepare.

“I like to have those students come in so I can hear what they are working on and see if I can help,” said Niles.

Roughly 700-800 students across the state audition for All-State Band.

With 170 positions, the O’Gorman students will have to work hard to earn a seat in the band.

According to Niles, it is common for O’Gorman to have three or four students selected for All-State.

When a student auditions for All-State, they usually play major and minor scales, a chromatic scale and a solo and sight-read some music in front of a judge.

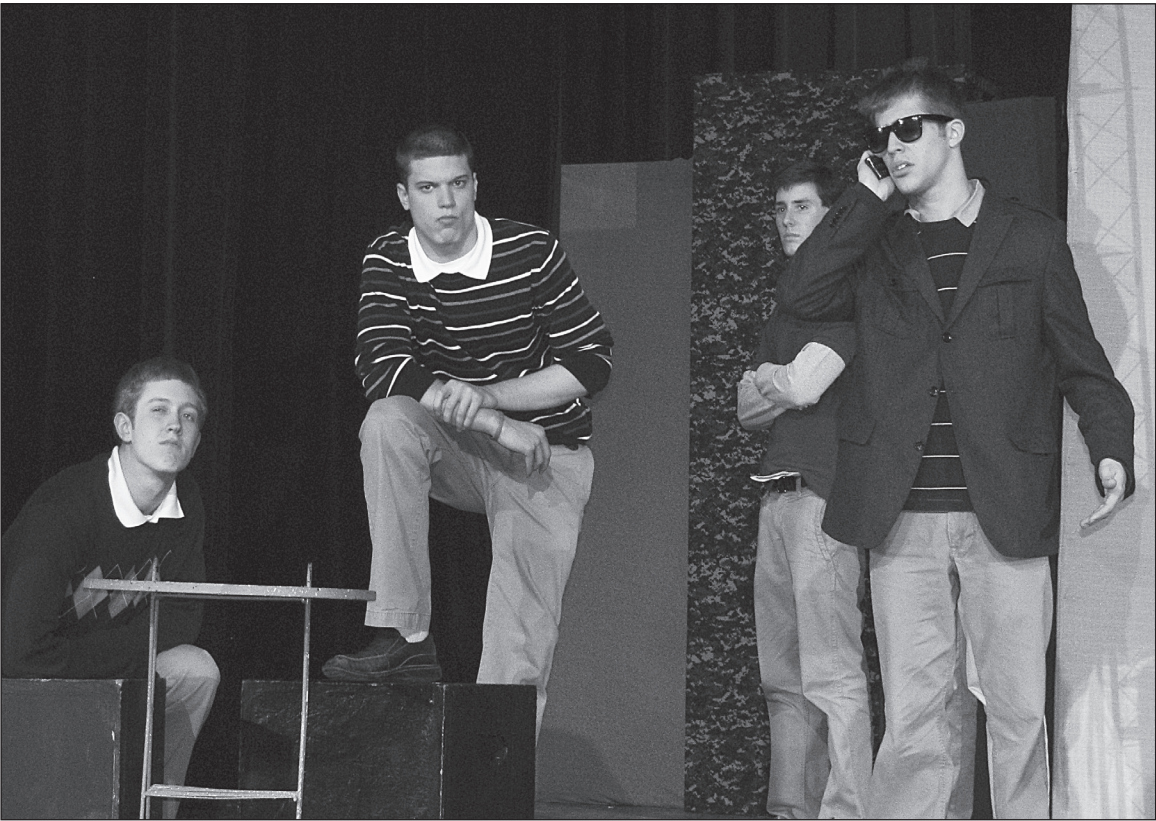
There is also a test on multiple musical terms the students must take as part of their audition.

All of this must be finished in seven minutes.

“It is a very tough competition,” said Tomac.

Across the state, auditions for the band are held over three different weekends. This year the auditions were held at Lincoln High School.

The All-State Band results will be announced on Feb 13.



ELLEN NELSON / KNIGHT SCROLL

Hunter Winklepleck, Alex Hey, Sean Turgeon and Steven Schaeffer practice for one-act.

# One-act play showcases New York life through dark comedy

JR Stassi  
Sports Co-Editor

The streets of New York City are alive and well in the 2010 O’Gorman one-act. The O’Gorman drama department is putting on the one-act play *They’re Just Like Us*, written by Boo Killebrew.

The play is a dark comedy which explores culture’s obsession with media, celebrities and high technology, and how these obsessions diminish the ability to actually connect and communicate.

It focuses on human desire and how it should not only be noticed,

but remembered. It includes the desperation that often accompanies the efforts to achieve these goals.

“The play has no true leads. There are essentially two ensembles,” said Ryan Soukup, student director.

According to Soukup, every single person holds a huge importance in the show, making it a demanding activity. However, students have a lot of fun at the same time.

A major challenge for the cast and crew is the time limit. They have 45 minutes to set up, run and take down the show.

This challenges the crew to make a simple set that can be easily

assembled and torn down.

The play questions what the media makes of the world. It calls out the shallowness and simplicity of the celebrities on the streets of New York City.

“I like performing plays that make the audience think about what they have seen long after the show is done,” said Ms. Teresa Fester, director of the one-act.

The State One Act Festival is Feb. 4-6. There will also be a performance Monday, Feb. 1 in Brandon at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 2 at O’Gorman at 7 p.m. The play promises to bring both entertainment and reflection.



## Service clubs broaden horizons for O'G students

Shilpa Chandran  
Assistant Editor

Every year, O'Gorman seniors get a glimpse into the life of Sioux Falls service clubs. This activity, known to students more commonly as Rotary club, involves students being chosen to sit in on a few meetings of service clubs operating in the Sioux Falls area.

These clubs include Downtown Kiwanis, Downtown Rotary, Rotary North, Sioux Empire Lyons and West Rotary.

"Each club champions different causes," said Guidance Counselor Mr. Art Hagg, who plays a part in organizing student participation in these clubs. "The one I take students to, Downtown Kiwanis, donates to

children's causes, while Sioux Empire Lyons focuses on optics."

Only seniors are allowed to participate in Rotary club and are chosen by a committee of teachers and counselors. Up to 30 students are chosen each year, though there may initially be 40 or 50 students in consideration. Characteristics taken into account while choosing include academics, athletics and overall student persona.

"I was honored to have been chosen to participate in the Student Rotarian program," said senior Samantha Koch. "It showed that someone believed I could be involved with my community and make a difference."

The meeting times, which vary with the

club, allow students to miss school over their lunch hour. Then, they travel to their specified meeting area and sit in on the members' conversation. The conversation can range from service activities pertaining to the specific club, to anything members find relevant.

"The meetings were always quite light-hearted and fun," said senior Kiah Schaeffbauer. "They always have a speaker, and that was cool because it was always about something new. All the members were very community-oriented and interested about the future of the students who attended the meetings."

"I really gained a respect for different viewpoints on many topics while also gain-

ing an open mind of my own," said Koch. "It was extremely interesting to hear what real people in my community could do to make a difference. It was a great learning experience."

Yet, in the end, students are there to observe and enjoy an organization they might not have heard of otherwise.

"The biggest thing we hope students learn is to actually see what a service club is about and to maybe consider joining one as an adult," said Hagg.

"I gained some friends from other schools and the knowledge that there are groups I can join when I'm older that are trying to make a difference in the community through service," said Schaeffbauer.

## High school students sponsor drug-free activities

Becky Jarding  
Co-Editor

Seven years ago, Mayor Dave Munson joined with Sioux Falls Promise to create a student-run organization in which high school youth sponsored drug-free activities.

Today, Mayor's Youth Council (MYC), consisting of 15 students from Lincoln, O'Gorman, Roosevelt, Washington and Tea, continues to provide youth with alcohol, tobacco and drug-free events.

"The council was started to give students a voice in the community and to provide drug free events for youth," said Nicholas Fischer, MYC advisor.

Some of the drug free events put on by MYC include concerts, dances, matball tournaments and sand volleyball leagues.

"Currently, Mayor's Youth Council is trying to organize a community wide talent show, with participants from each high school," said Tara Iannarelli, O'Gorman MYC member.

"It's difficult to organize such an event, and it is taking a long time to develop, but we feel that all of our efforts will be worth it, in order to pull the community together."

Having a voice in the community and allowing individuals to help others has made MYC an ap-

pealing extracurricular activity for students.

"I joined Mayor's Youth Council so that I could actively make a difference," said Iannarelli. "Mayor's Youth Council is a great way to change the lives of others for the better."

One of the ways in which MYC helps others is by its many community service projects. MYC has helped at "Relay for Life" to raise money to find a cure for breast cancer, with "Blankets for Babies" in making blankets for infants and in "Assistant Living," an organization that aids abused individuals.

In addition to its community service projects, MYC organizes

awareness events, such as Driver's Edge, which educates teenagers about drinking and driving and handling vehicles in dangerous situations.

MYC also helped provide radio and television public service announcements through the State Park Alcohol Awareness Campaign.

Before someone can become a member of MYC, he or she must fill out an application form and submit a teacher recommendation.

"If an applicant is accepted to join the Mayor's Youth Council, they are asked to sign a contract that demonstrates their willingness to remain alcohol, drug and

tobacco free," said Fischer. "Members also agree to be present for meetings, involved with events the Mayor's Youth Council hosts and volunteer for community service projects the Mayor's Youth Council is involved in."

This commitment does not seem to bother its members, who genuinely enjoy being able to assist individuals in the Sioux Falls area.

"It's really rather inspiring, how a group of young people can come together for a common cause," said Iannarelli.

The next event hosted by MYC will be a dodgeball tournament at the MariCar Community Center on February 10.

# TGIF@

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# Lady Knight gymnasts work to place at state

Abby Meyers  
Activities Co-Editor

Although a few minor injuries have led to a slow start, the O'Gorman Knights gymnastics team is looking to stick it at state once again this year.

The Lady Knights are coached by Emmy Cotton and assisted by Dennis Campioux and Lana Bauer.

Starting with practice in November, the team has been pushing hard to make this season as successful as the last.

"We have set a team goal to reach a score of 140 or higher, and we would love to repeat third place or possibly higher," said Cotton.

In order to obtain this goal the girls are focusing on the "little things and being more of a team," said Cotton.

"We are working on fixing our small errors of bent legs, pointed toes and extra steps."

Team captains Natalie Ray and Brittanie Venard have stepped up

to the plate for the team this year. The team also consists of junior Jordan Redman and sophomore Kelsey Thornton.

The Lady Knights are also looking to the junior high to bring talent to the floor. This talent includes two eighth graders and six seventh graders.

**"To be successful, we don't need to have the big skills," said Cotton. "But we have to be good at the skills we can do."**

"This is a team that consists of 12 very hard working girls," said Cotton. "They dedicate a lot of their passion to the sport and to their team."

Confidence and being able to conquer the fear of the judges is a major focus for the girls this year, and they are working very hard to achieve these goals.

The team practices two to

three hours in order to prepare for the state tournament this year.

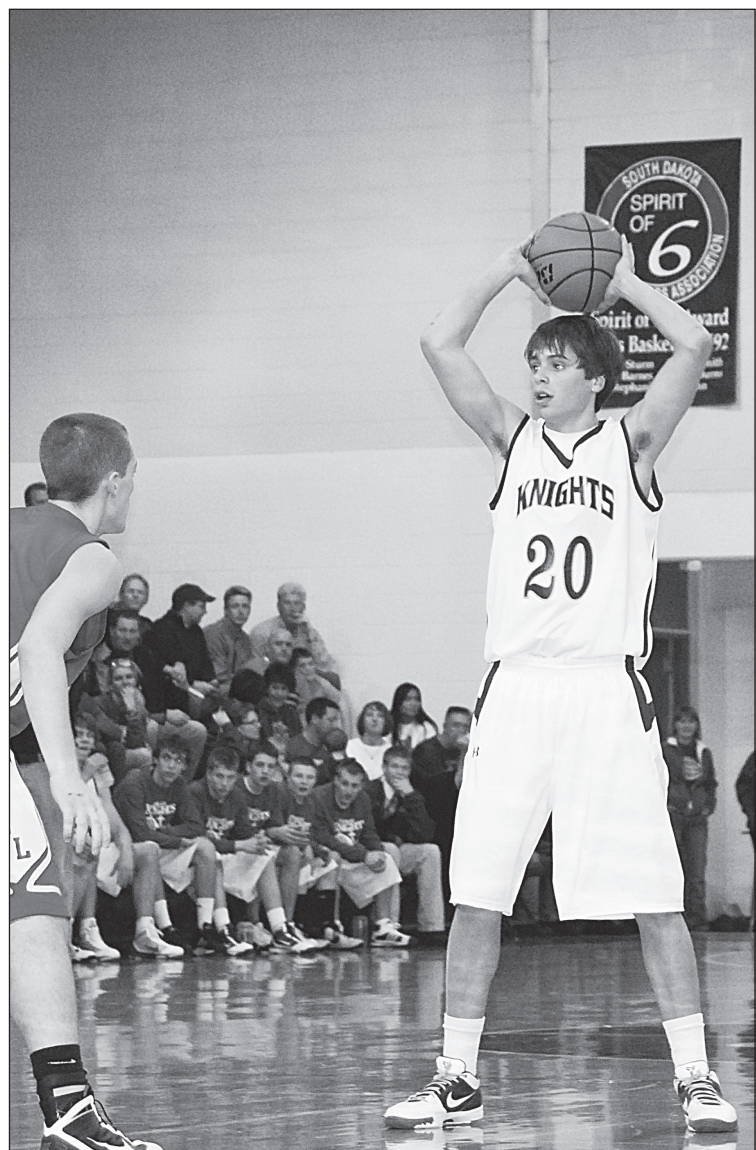
"Compared to other teams across the state, we are going to bring a lot of competition," said Venard. "Everyone is working on their own individual skills so we can come together when it really matters."

The 2010 state tournament is held on Feb. 19 and 20 in Aberdeen. The first day consists of team competitions, and individual competition occurs on the second day.

"To be successful we don't need to have the big skills, but we have to be good at the skills we can do," said Cotton.

Success is the goal for the 2009-2010 O'G gymnasts, and these girls are working hard and putting in the time and effort in order to achieve success.

"Whether these girls are practicing hard in the gym or at a meet, they represent the O'Gorman mission with pride and respect," said Cotton.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Senior Tom Wilka prepares to pass the ball.

# Powerlifters strive to win fifth consecutive state title

Becky Jarding  
Co-Editor

With four consecutive state titles under their belt, O'Gorman's powerlifters hope to continue their pattern of success with their first meet of the season on February 6.

The meet will take place at 10:00 am in the Rec Center. O'Gorman competitors will be joined by lifters from Madison, Roosevelt, Brandon and Omaha Central.

This meet is the forerunner to the state powerlifting competition in Madison on March 6.

"It's a good meet to check our status and see where some of the kids are at," said Ed Whiting, seven-year powerlifting coach, who is joined by Assistant Coach Alex Butterfield. "It gives us a one month check before the state meet."

More than just a check point, the upcoming meet could be a chance for the O'G powerlifters to fulfill some of their goals for the season.

"The goals for the season as a team are to do our best and hopefully take gold," said senior and four-year powerlifter Ben Frank.

"Everyone's nervous and ex-

cited for the meet, no matter if you're a rookie or a seasoned vet."

Besides their usual home meet and the state competition, members of the O'Gorman powerlifting team also competed in nationals last year.

Graduates Nolan Cleary, Peter Prostrullo and Casey Raen went to Texas with Whiting for the competition. Each one of the three lifters managed to place in the top ten of their weight class at the competition.

"Nationals were eye-opening for the kids," said Whiting. "It was a learning experience to see the degree of powerlifting on a national level."

However, because powerlifting is not a school-sanctioned sport at O'Gorman, the meets that the Knights usually attend do not count towards qualifying a lifter for nationals, and in order to qualify, lifters must attend a qualifying meet.

Whiting is unsure whether or not he will be taking any students to nationals this year.

Besides nationals, another topic of interest for powerlifters is the weightroom in which they prepare for upcoming competitions. Lifting machines line every

wall of the room and lifters sometimes find themselves cramped in the tiny space.

"Our biggest issue right now is space," said Whiting. "We have a lot of interested lifters, so hopefully at some point we will be able to expand the weightroom."

According to Whiting, the O'Gorman weightroom is kept current by replacing a lifting machine about once every year. However, the success of the team does not depend on the room in which they practice or the machines they use to do so; it is the individual members that matter.

"A strong team is dependent on strong seniors, people like Dawn Williams, Ben Frank, Ben Harwig and Vince Danh," said Whiting. "The success of our season is dependent on how successful they can be."

More than just contributing to the success of the team, lifters encourage each other and through powerlifting, create friendships.

"If it wasn't for Ben Harwig, Dawn Williams, Vince Danh and Josh Lown, I wouldn't have gone out (for powerlifting)," said Frank. "They are awesome friends and teammates."

# Basketball team faces tough foes, tougher weather

Frankie Maxwell  
Entertainment Co-Editor

The O'Gorman Knights varsity basketball team suits up for their practice after school, preparing for their next game.

The only problem is, there haven't been many games to prepare for yet this year.

The Knights were 2-2 before they took a three week break due to weather conditions.

To Derek Robey, head coach, the season was going by slowly.

"We have had two games that were cancelled, and they can't be made up," said D. Robey.

The games were against Spearfish and Sturgis Brown.

After the long wait, the team was excited to play Watertown instead of heading off to another practice.

"We were tired of playing each other during practice, and we were definitely ready to play an actual game," said senior Alex Robey.

The Knights lost the game to the Arrows 69-56, but the starting forward thought the team played very well considering the team's long break.

"Watertown was easily the best team we have played this year," said A. Robey.

After the loss against Watertown, the Knights went on to beat Lincoln 40-35.

"We have played very well the past few games," said A. Robey. "I think we will have a successful season."

Coming off of a win against Lincoln, the team suffered losses to the Warriors (48-42) and to Sioux City East (57-51).

The only improvement that Coach Robey seeks to make is defense.

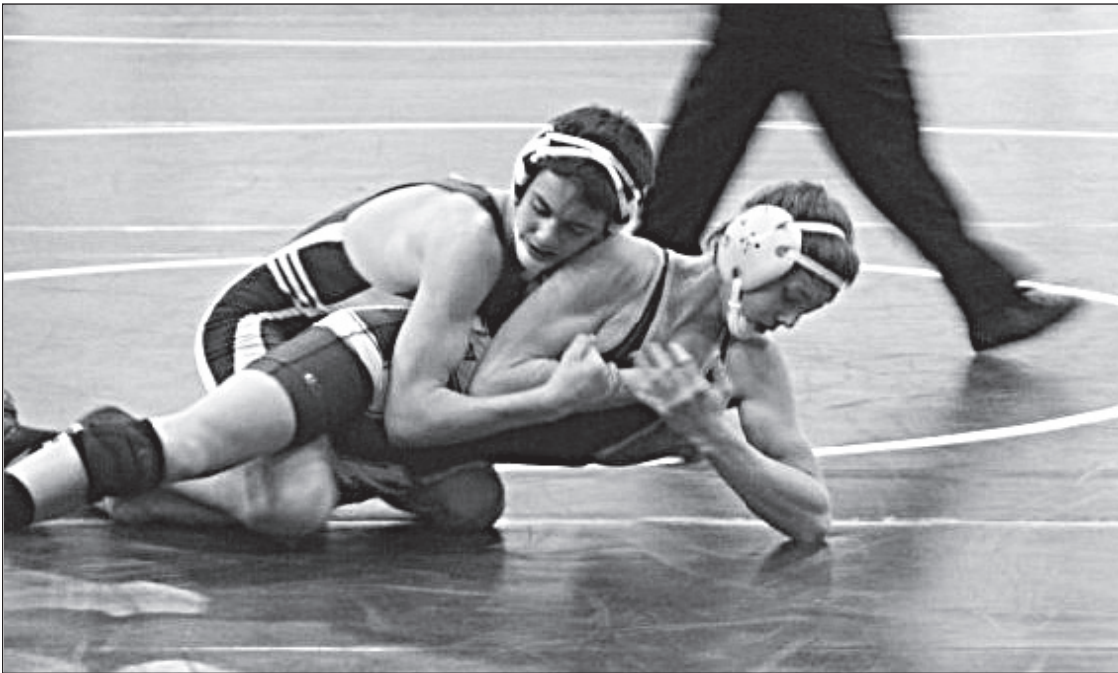
"Our offense is fine," said D. Robey. "We just need to tighten up our defense. Other than that, we have a strong ball club."

The Knights' record so far is 3-5. Although the season is off to a very rough start, the team is still reaching for their main goal.

The team plans on winning their conference and having a shot at the State Championship.

"I'm almost positive we can pull it off if we play hard and come together as a team," said A. Robey. "We want to be the best team we can be."





J.R. STASSI / KNIGHT SCROLL

Ben Fichter attempts to defeat his opponent in his Canton match.

## O'G wrestling team suffers injuries, advances forward

JR Stassi  
Sports Co-Editor

The O'Gorman wrestling team started off the season slowly after key injuries impeded on the success of the team.

The team has suffered many devastating injuries, which have put a damper on the success of the team as a whole.

With the concussions that sophomore Collin Lathrop suffered, along with his partially torn MCL, he is out for the season.

The herniated disk that junior Jacob Redding has suffered will take him out of this season also and possibly some of the next as well.

However, despite the injuries, the Knights have succeeded in pushing through this season and being successful.

"We are having a solid season, led by a good group of seniors

which includes Brian Voss, Grady Hakl, Jarad Kunzman, Markell Boysen, Dan Haiar, Travis Rohde, Josh Duus and Chris Oligmueller," said Head Coach Jeff Gordon.

Although the Knights have fallen to the Sioux City North Stars by a score of 51-21, Lincoln by a score of Patriots 49-18, Brandon Valley 45-25 and Canton, their season has consisted of victories as well at many of the meets they have attended.

In their triangular, O'Gorman succeeded in defeating Roosevelt, Sibley, Luverne and Sioux Center.

One specific match that stood out was the number one ranked senior Jeremiah Peterson versus O'Gorman sophomore Dylan Bakken at the 130 weight class. In this match Bakken was on his back for much of the periods, but he found a way out of the pin every time.

During the match Dylan separated his shoulder and slipped out of the pin. He ended up losing by a technical fall, but it was still a valiant effort.

Throughout the season the Knights have set forth two wrestlers who have become ranked. Sophomore Tyler Peltier and senior Travis Rhode are both currently ranked.

At the date of the last rankings, Peltier was 9 and 1 and ranked 3rd in the state at the 103 weight class, and Rhode was 12 and 1 ranked 9th in the state.

The Knights look to push through the tail end of their season with victories at their upcoming meets, and even greater success at regions in Madison and at the state tournament. Regions will take place on February 20, and the state tournament will occur on February 26 and 27 in Rapid City.

## Winter athletes strive in recent cold conditions

Frankie Maxwell  
Entertainment Co-Editor

During this winter season the harsh weather has forced some people to hibernate indoors in order to stay warm. Others decide to face the weather and use it as an object for many activities.

Among many winter activities, such as skiing, snowboarding is usually the main choice among teens.

"I snowboard and ski," said junior Jack Billion. "But I definitely like boarding more. It's challenging

and you can do so much more."

One of the reasons for this is because a snowboard is much cheaper than a pair of skis.

"They usually run for about \$400, and they last a long time," said sophomore Kyle Bruggeman.

Snowboarding tricks, which look much cooler than skiing tricks, also add to its popularity.

"The tricks are a ton of fun if you actually land them," said Bruggeman.

See **WINTER** page 11

## Snowfox swim team practices for annual Sioux Falls meet

Molly Donohue  
Activities Co-Editor

After hosting their own swim meet the last weekend in January, members of the Snow Fox swim team are looking forward to state. Their season began at the beginning of September and will conclude at the end of April.

The swimmers on the Snowfox swim team are from all over Sioux Falls but many go to O'Gorman. The program has been around for many years and each year the teammates work on improving their individual times.

"Individually we have certain

goals we like to reach.

As a team we work to improve and encourage our fellow swimmers to excel" said Kara Lawler, a junior who has been swimming since third grade.

The second half of the season is more important because the team is preparing for state and nationals. The state swim meet is at the beginning of March and the NCSA Jr. Nationals in Orlando is in the middle of March.

The Snowfox swim teams compete at events together but each individual scores their own points.

See **SWIM** page 11

## Girls basketball team hopes to turn season around

Ellen Nelson  
Faith Co-Editor

After a rough start, the O'Gorman girls' basketball team has been working to turn its season around.

"We haven't totally reached our potential yet, but in the game against Brandon we felt like we played much better," said Chandler Nielsen, sophomore starting point guard.

Before Brandon, the Lady Knights were on a three game losing streak.

"It was really nice to get a win against one of the top teams in the state," said Nielsen.

"We are improving each and every practice and game," said

Coach Kent Kolsrud. "We hope to continue to improve and be a factor in the postseason."

This year the girls are committed to make it to the state tournament.

"Winning the championship would be the cherry on top," Nielsen said.

Last year the team lost in the second round of districts to Brandon.

To make it to the state tournament, the Lady Knights still have a lot of work ahead of them.

"We haven't shown as much consistency as we would like," said Nielsen. "Some nights, we just can't get the shots to fall."

Despite this lack of consistency, the girls are working hard to

have a successful season.

The girls' worked intensely over Christmas break to improve their basketball skills.

"This team has a desire to continue to get better and works very hard," Kolsrud said.

"We have a number of really good basketball players in our program and are excited about the remainder of the season."

"Our defense is also a great strength of ours, and we are doing well at out-rebounding our opponent," said Nielsen.

The Lady Knights hope to use these strengths to aid in their efforts to end the season on their terms, hopefully at the state tournament.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Junior Meg Townsend avoids a Roosevelt defender.



# Quietdrive lead singer fulfills big dreams

Jory Kunzman  
Sports Co-Editor

Many children grow up with the dream of becoming a rockstar, but few actually do. One man who is lucky enough to have achieved this dream is Quietdrive lead singer Kevin Truckenmiller.

Truckenmiller, a 2000 graduate of O'Gorman, and his band have recently released their latest EP "Open Your Eyes" on the *Sneakers 2 Bombs* label, which is owned by the band.

Other members of Quietdrive include guitarists Matt Kirby and Justin Bonhiver, bassist Droo Hastings and drummer Brandon Lanier.

"The formation of Quietdrive was an evolving process," said Truckenmiller.

"It's like a business. We were all working to push a vision; we were all decent players with an appre-

ciation for each other's musical ability and tastes."

Creating its own record label has given the band a better look into what all goes into making it possible for a CD to end up on the shelves of local music stores.

"Part of the reason for making our own label was so that we could learn more about the distribution side of music," said Truckenmiller.

Although they have been able to tour with bands such as Bowling for Soup, the average music listener may not have heard of Quietdrive. This fits right into the band's name.

"The name Quietdrive is a great representation of what we are," said Truckenmiller. "We want to create music in a subtle way."

Although they have managed to be subtle, the band has experienced a good amount of success

since the release of their debut album, *When All That's Left is You*.

The first single off the CD *Rise from the Ashes* was featured in the EA Sports video game NHL 2007 along with being featured on an episode of NBC's *The Biggest Loser*.

Their second single was a cover of Cyndi Lauper's 1984 smash hit "Time After Time." The song can be heard in movies such as *John Tucker Must Die* and *Prom Night*.

Since they have enjoyed success at such an early stage, the band set the bar high for future work.

"We set a precedent for ourselves, not only with our music but how we live our lives," said Truckenmiller.

The band continues to try and put out the best product that they possibly can.

"It's like a business," said Truckenmiller. "Once you make a

See **QUIETDRIVE** page 11



When *All That's Left is You* was released in 2006.

PRESS PHOTO



PRESS PHOTO

Motion City Soundtrack released their new album, *My Dinosaur Life*, on Jan. 19.

## Pop punk band pleases fans with brand new album release

Zach Dresch  
Entertainment Co-Editor

When a beloved indie-label band turns into a major label, fans start to become concerned about the band's lack of credibility and whether or not they have "sold-out." However, this should not be a concern for the brand new album by Motion City Soundtrack, entitled *My Dinosaur Life*.

To put it simply, this is the best Motion City Soundtrack album of their career. If one is expecting a fantastic album full of incredibly catchy songs and well-written lyrics, then expect to be pleasantly surprised because expectations will be exceeded.

The album was produced by Blink-182 bassist Mark Hoppus, who previously produced Motion's second album, *Commit This to Memory*. Hoppus knows what he's doing, and his production

shines through on the new Motion City Soundtrack album. This mix feeling much more strong and confident.

The most obvious improvement of this album is lead singer Justin Pierre's vocals. He blasts through every song stronger than ever, and with each album, his voice becomes even better than it was.

Pierre's best vocal performance is on tracks such as "Worker Bee" and "Disappear," where he belts out his strongest vocal performances to date.

The album's first single, "Her Words Destroyed My Planet," is the perfect choice for a first single, due to the trademark synth sounds of MCS and the self-deprecating lyrics of Pierre. "I fell asleep watching Veronica Mars again" is the best lyric in this song, showing Pierre's large sense of humor.

This is the group's fourth al-

bum, and there is a noticeable pattern to each album. The first two albums showed their raw qualities, with Pierre's lyrics about coping with addiction.

The third album, *Even If It Kills Me*, expresses lyrics of recovery and forgiveness. With *My Dinosaur Life*, Pierre explores full sobriety and the perks to dealing with sobriety.

Other highlights include the songs "Stand Too Close," "Pulp Fiction," "A Lifeless Ordinary (Need A Little Help)" and "Skin and Bones," which proves MCS's pop songwriting craft is nearly unbeaten by most rock bands in the business.

If you are looking for an amazingly good album with every track being special in its own way, you might want to pick up *My Dinosaur Life* before it goes into extinction.

## Runway fashions to be found at formal

Abby Meyers  
Activites Co-Editor

Having trouble finding the perfect dress for this year's Red Carpet Sweetheart?

Well, have no fear; I am here to share with you a few tips that will help you glow on the red carpet at the 2010 winter formal.

The first step in picking out the perfect dress is deciding if you would like to go with a long, elegant dress or a fun short one.

Once your preferred style of dress is selected, you can start deciding what exactly you want out of your dress.

Whether you are going for elegance or just plain fun, this year is all about showing off the shoulders.

One-strapped dresses, sweetheart necklines and halters are great ways to compliment this feature.

Sequins are in this year, but if you're going with the sparkly theme, try to stick with one color, or a few, similar colors to avoid looking like a confetti cake.

Metallic patterns are also a fabulous option this year, but minimal jewelry and a short length is a definite must in order to avoid looking like a disco ball.

Architectural elements, such as pleating, will help you make a super trendy statement on the red carpet.

These elements emphasize certain parts of your body to really make you stand out from the crowd.

Also, long dresses with sparkly bodices and long tulle skirts are simply elegant.

They give off a very classy vibe, and they can be found in many colors and styles.

However, avoid too much tulle at the bottom of the dress, because it can be difficult dancing with ten extra pounds of fluff.

Try to avoid dresses with tails or loops in the back because they can easily get caught on sharp corners or passerby and can be very distracting.

Also, watch out for busy details that take away from the dress. When in doubt, remember that simplicity always equals elegance.

Other popular options include "flapper" and "bandage" style dresses.

These dresses are showing up more frequently than ever on the runway this year.

Bandage style dresses, which consist of strips of fabric sewn together to create a striped look, are a great way to show off your curves.

Flapper dresses are super cute, especially when paired with accessories like pearls and chunky necklaces.

Stripes are also a way to make a statement with your dress. If everyone else is wearing plain dresses why not go with a different pattern?

Avoid black and white, however. We don't want any prisoners in the crowd.

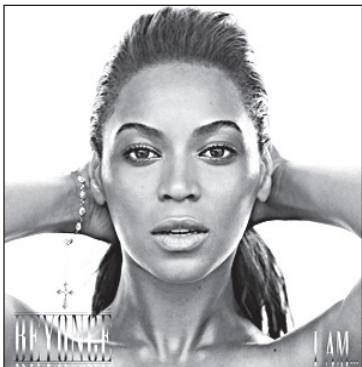
A hard decision when choosing a dress is what area of your body you would like to show off the most.

Decide on either a low neck, backless or high-slitted dress to

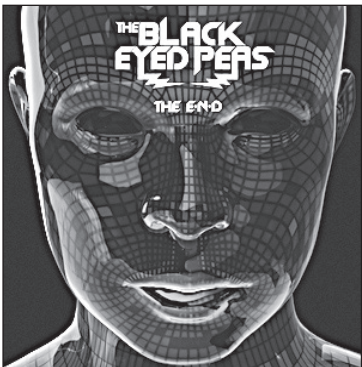
See **FASHION** page 11



# Mainstream stars dominate Grammys



I Am...Sasha Fierce – Beyoncé



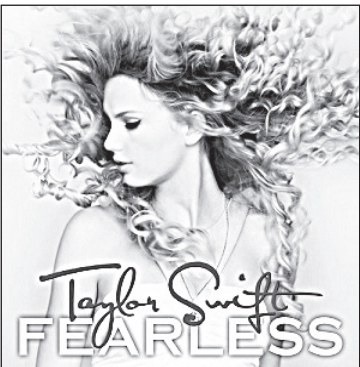
The E.N.D. – The Black Eyed Peas



The Fame – Lady Gaga



Big Whiskey & The Groogrux King – Dave Matthews Band



Fearless – Taylor Swift

## Albums Of The Year

Zach Dresch  
Frankie Maxwell

It’s that time again: the Grammys. It’s the music event of the season, and it’s a time where albums are given the credit they deserve, and fans rejoice for their favorite musicians in the process.

By the time we’re writing this, the Grammys will have already aired, but it will have been too late to announce the winners, so we have decided to just pick the ones we think should win instead.

We feel that some of the nominees are better than others, and we are going to predict which albums

should or will win. These picks will be in bold, to make it more obvious what we really chose.

There were many categories to choose from, but we chose the ones that would interest the student body most, so we apologize in advance if you were looking for Best Jazz Album.

Thank you so much, and hopefully you will agree with our picks. If not, be that way.

By the way, we are also going to pick our favorite artists that were not nominated as an honorable mention. It’s just a nice way to salute our favorite artists.

Give us feedback on what you

think. We appreciate your criticism and we would like to hear your opinion. We believe that alternative rock should be mentioned more in the Grammys, and that’s why we emphasized it in this article.

Critical acclaim should be taken more into account than popularity, which plagues the Grammys at times to the point where it’s hard to give the Grammy people credibility. However, they generate people’s interest, so it must make sense to them why they nominate who they nominate. Anyways, thanks for checking out this page and keep supporting your favorite artists by purchasing their CDs.

### Should Have Been Nominated Best Alternative Rock Album

- The Resistance - Muse
- Brand New Eyes - Paramore
- Raditude - Weezer
- Say Anything - Say Anything
- Horehound - The Dead Weather
- Crash Love - AFI

### Indie Album of the Year

- Hold Time - M. Ward
- Outer South - Conor Oberst and the Mystic Valley Band
- Daisy - Brand New
- Wilco (The Album) - Wilco
- Monsters Of Folk - Monsters Of Folk

### Record Of The Year

- “Halo” – Beyoncé
- “I Gotta Feeling” – The Black Eyed Peas
- “Use Somebody” – **Kings of Leon**
- “Poker Face” – Lady Gaga
- “You Belong With Me” – Taylor Swift

### Song Of The Year

- “Poker Face” – Lady Gaga
- “Pretty Wings” – Maxwell
- “Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)” – Beyoncé
- “Use Somebody” – **Kings of Leon**
- “You Belong With Me” – Taylor Swift

### Best New Artist

- Zac Brown Band
- Keri Hilson
- MGMT (Zach’s Pick)**
- Silversun Pickups (Frankie’s Pick)**
- The Ting Tings

### Best Pop Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocals

- “I Gotta Feeling” – The Black Eyed Peas
- “We Weren’t Born To Follow” – Bon Jovi
- “Never Say Never” – The Fray
- “Sara Smile” – Hall & Oates
- “Kids” – **MGMT**

### Best Solo Rock Vocal Performance

- “Beyond Here Lies Nothin’” – **Bob Dylan**
- “Change In The Weather” – John Fogerty
- “Dreamer” – Prince
- “Working On A Dream” – Bruce Springsteen
- “Fork In The Road” – Neil Young

### Best Rock Album

- Black Ice – AC/DC
- Live From Madison Square Garden – Eric Clapton & Steve Winwood
- 21st Century Breakdown – Green Day**
- Big Whiskey and the Groogrux King – Dave Matthews Band
- No Line On The Horizon – U2

### Best Alternative Album

- Everything That Happens Will Happen Today – David Byrne & Brian Eno
- The Open Door – Death Cab For Cutie
- Sounds Of The Universe – Depeche Mode
- Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix – Phoenix**
- It’s Blitz! – Yeah Yeah Yeahs

### Best Rap Solo Performance

- “Best I Ever Had” – Drake
- “Beautiful” – **Eminem**
- “D.O.A. (Death Of Auto-Tune)” – Jay-Z
- “Day ‘N’ Nite” – Kid Cudi
- “Casa Bey” – Mos Def

### Best Rap Album

- Universal Mind Control – Common
- Relapse – Eminem**
- R.O.O.T.S. – Flo Rida
- The Ecstatic – Mos Def
- The Renaissance – Q-Tip

### Best Comedy Album

- “Back From The Dead”- Spinal Tap
- “A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift Of All” – Stephen Colbert
- “Internet Leaks” – **Weird Al Yankovic**
- “My Weakness Is Strong” – Patton Oswalt
- “For The Holidays” – Kathy Griffin
- “Tall, Dark, & Chicano” – George Lopez

### Best Hard Rock Performance

- “War Machine” – AC/DC
- “Check My Brain” – **Alice in Chains**
- “New Divide” – Linkin Park
- “The Unforgiven III” –Metallica
- “Burn It To The Ground” – Nickelback

### Best Rock Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocals

- “Can’t Find My Way Home” – Eric Clapton & Steve Winwood
- “Life In Technicolor II” – Coldplay
- “21 Guns” – **Green Day**
- “Use Somebody” – Kings of Leon
- “I’ll Go Crazy If I Don’t Go Crazy Tonight” – U2

### Best Rock Song

- “The Fixer” – Pearl Jam
- “I’ll Go Crazy If I Don’t Go Crazy Tonight” – U2
- “21 Guns” – **Green Day**
- “Use Somebody” – Kings of Leon
- “Working On A Dream” – Bruce Springsteen

### Worst New Artist (Zach & Frankie Exclusive)

- Susan Boyle
- Demi Lovato
- Adam Lambert
- Drake
- Joaquin Phoenix
- The “Pants On The Ground” Guy

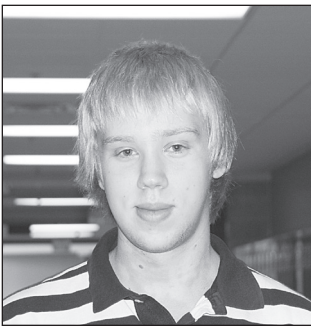


Photo Survey: What song do you sing in the shower?



Jennifer Roberts

“Love Story by Taylor Swift.”



Josh Rundell

“Rock and Roll All Nite by Kiss.”



Rachel Tanner

“Anything from Glee.”



Alex Robey

“Party in the USA by Miley Cyrus.”

Top Ten: Superbowl Must-Haves

- 1. Hot wings
- 2. HDTV
- 3. Friends
- 4. Chili
- 5. Jerseys or Teamwear
- 6. Beverages
- 7. The book, *Football for Dummies*
- 8. Actual football
- 9. *Queen’s*, “We Are the Champions”
- 10. Grill

Music industry today shows rapid decline of genuine taste, talent

Zach Dresch  
Entertainment Co-Editor

The dictionary defines being genuine as being pure or free from hypocrisy or dishonesty. This is something that the music industry is sadly lacking today.

Music groups these days just seem to be too manufactured or corporate.

They are showing kids that it can be easy to be a popular musician, but kids should dare to dream because most of it is a convulsing lie.

The prime example of corporate masochists taking over is the Disney channel.

Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers are really poster children for falsehood. Don’t get me wrong, these artists have done very well for themselves, but it’s hard to imagine them making it big even 20 years ago, as alternative acts were on their way to popularity.

The early ‘90s was a time when alternative acts became mainstream and these artists earned their popularity by writing their own material, instead of producers writing their material for them.

A lot of pop stars rely on producers to write their music because they can’t write their own music themselves.

The industry is always looking for the next big thing in music. Whenever a new idea is brought to the table and it pays off immensely, producers jump at the chance to look for artists just like their predecessors.

It is really all about money and not about the music itself. Money is the sole reason why people act on their instincts.

With digital downloads increasing, pop stars with only one hit have become immensely popular too, with artists such as Owl City making huge rounds with

just one hit song.

It shows how they all have their 15 minutes of fame with the single hit they have, and they can live off their one hit, so I guess the artists can’t complain too much.

Some artists unexpectedly make huge hits which really helps their album sales, although credibility can be lost with fans, especially if the song is repeatedly played to death on a top 40 radio station.

Most artists that make lots of money and sell millions of albums are generally labeled the word most bands hate to hear: the word “sell-out”.

Musicians that join major labels pretty much always expect to hear criticism over how their records have become more radio-friendly or mainstream.

It’s understandable why artists have a difficult time figuring out what they will do next with their

career, because as musicians are aware, criticism from fans on the internet and in magazines can be very harsh.

Most artists earn their respected success because they tour constantly and make lots of fans.

That’s my opinion of being a true genuine band, even if they are on a major label. If you dedicate your whole career and music just to the fans and if you have fun doing it, I think that is a truly genuine group of musicians.

Hopefully, this year the industry will start blossoming into something better than it has been in the past few years.

With old groups reforming like Soundgarden and Something Corporate, there is bound to be a glimmer of light to brighten the darkness in the music industry. Hopefully the economy will bloom, and hopefully that means the music industry will be better off this way.

Student body searches for perfect formal date

Taylor Reaves  
Guest Writer

I hate Valentine’s Day. For those both single and in a relationship, it is a day filled with unmet expectations, awkwardness, and even disappointment.

This year promises to be different, for this year Valentine’s Day is not only the ordinary holiday, but the day of the 2010 winter formal.

Although your reservations may be made, and your limo already reserved, the date that you may or may not have may be causing you distress. As a senior, I feel I have faced each possible formal scenario you may be facing, and so I bring you, Taylor’s Tips for Teens: Formal Edition.

**The Upperclassman:** Just because some upperclassman arrives at your doorstep on New Year’s Eve day to ask you to formal does

not mean that you have to accept.

Your first sign to deny is when he introduces himself, due to the fact that you two have never met before. Your second sign to deny is when he tells you that you will be escorted to the dance by his parents or a taxi cab.

Unfortunately, I didn’t see the neon warning signs that were before me, but only saw the pressure of rejecting an upperclassman.

Just because an upperclassman asks you to formal does not necessarily mean that you have to say yes, which brings me into my second point.

**The Loner:** Whether no one asked you, or you chose to reject those who did, there is no shame in going to formal by yourself.

I highly recommend taking this route freshman year. Going with a group of friends allows you the opportunity to experience for-

mal for the first time without the expectations and stress that goes along with having a date.

**The Underclassman:** In the same way that you don’t have to accept the invitation of an upperclassman, you don’t have to reject the invitation of an underclassman.

Don’t let age be a deciding factor in finding a formal date. An underclassman may treat you better than a date of your own age.

**The Stranger:** Even in a school the size of O’Gorman, it is possible that you may not be acquainted with everyone in your grade.

Although it may be awkward when said individual asks you, and possibly during the beginning stages of the night, the person whose phone call you had previously ignored to avoid awkwardness the morning before the dance could

turn out to be one of your best friends throughout the rest of your high school career.

**The Friend:** Personally, this is this is the best scenario a single person may find themselves in. Going with a date that you are good friends with can eliminate any awkwardness before, during, and after the dance.

In this situation, you are free to be yourself without worrying what your date thinks of you, because he or she has already accepted you for the person that you are.

Valentine’s Day and Formal can both be stressful events in a teenager’s life. Hopefully with the two paired together this year, the events will be a positive and memorable part of your high school career, without bringing additional heartache into your already stressful life.



Taylor’s Favorite Pre-Formal Restaurants

- 1. Spezia’s
- 2. Wild Sage Grille
- 3. Grille 26
- 4. Parker’s
- 5. Cafe 334



WINTER  
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This winter season, so far, has been a very harsh one, and usually bad weather is a good thing for snowboarders.

“The more snow the better,” said Bruggeman. “But ice is bad.”

The reason why ice is bad for snowboarding is because it is hard to stop and it makes the sport more dangerous.

“It’s so rough and uneven to board on, and it’s real hard when you fall,” said Billion. “Not that I fall though.”

At Great Bear, snowboarding is very popular as well as skiing and tubing. It is the top spot in South Dakota for winter sports.

“I go to Great Bear about twice a week,” said Bruggeman. “I’ve been there about twenty times so far.”

Great Bear also hosts snowboarding and skiing competitions like the “Sun N Fun Rail Jam” on Feb. 6 and the “Hot 104.7 Big Air Bash” on Feb. 7.

“Snowboarding is like a stress reliever for me,” said Bruggeman. “I get to forget everything when I’m on my board.”

SCHOOLS  
Continued from page 1

minimal interaction with STI students.

Although all students are eligible to attend, some students may find that a traditional education is more beneficial. If so, students can choose to return to one of the other Sioux Falls public schools. However, if one does choose to attend NTH, that individual must begin his or her freshman year due to the schools unique way of learning.

NTH has many advantages to offer its students. According to Homan, the school is focused on providing its students with problem –solving skills, research experience, and real world projects to help them thrive in today’s society.

One of the disadvantages, however, is that students will not have extracurricular opportunities, but students will be able to participate in afterschool activities, such as sports and theater, through one of the other Sioux Falls schools. They will not be able to be involved with activities that take place during school hours.

Unlike NTH, the other school new to Sioux Falls, CTE Academy, will supplement students’ education while they attend their regular high school. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will have the opportunity to continue their studies that they began at their regular school.

“We wanted to build a new school

to provide opportunities to more students,” said Mr. Jim Kayle, future principal of CTE Academy. “CTE Academy allows students, primarily juniors and seniors, to explore different career options. “

The school will offer some of the same CTE courses currently offered by Sioux Falls schools. These CTE courses are part of the national program that aims to prepare students for post-secondary education and future careers. The school will also add a number of advanced level courses to high school students’ current curriculum.

“We’re looking at putting the advanced level classes at the new school, while the entry level courses will be offered at the other Sioux Falls schools,” said Kayle.

Technology and communications, architecture and construction, and hospitality and tourism are a few of the career-focused areas that courses are offered in.

With the capacity to hold 960 students, the school will be set up with a three-block school day. Students will travel to CTE Academy during either a morning, mid-afternoon, or late-afternoon block for an hour and fifty minutes. The blocks are set up so that students will only miss two periods of their regular school day.

Also, a shuttle service has been considered to allow students without

SPIRIT  
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School. “The band has had the same uniforms for years, and the fine arts don’t get a whole lot of funding, but they’re not completely left in the dark.”

This uneven division of spirit was not only evident in the student body but also in administration as well.

“The sports always have received more support in my school,” said Megan Weidner, a senior at Jefferson High. “For instance, when the volleyball team makes it to state, they get to go to the tournament three days before they play, and the school pays for their hotel rooms.”

“When Destination Imagination teams make it to global competition, they have to raise the money by them-

selves.”

Yet another consistency shown is that student council and other “spirit organizations” play a major role in school spirit across South Dakota schools.

“We have a super-fan section which cheers for almost everything, dresses up, etc,” said Alex Card, a junior at Vermillion High School. “It helps bolster our spirit.”

“Our student council definitely helps with boosting school spirit during things like homecoming week,” said Weidner.

The results showed that school size does not always play a role in school spirit. While some smaller schools, such as Baltic, claim to have high spirit, other schools, such as Custer, seem to have a lower amount.

“Although our school is small, the

SWIM  
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“You are always competing against yourself to beat your old time” said Jody Bolt, a junior.

Swimmers on the Snowfox swim team get to pick and choose certain meets they want to compete in. To qualify for bigger meets team members need to meet a certain time for the races in which they compete.

Team members agree, being on the Snowfox swim team is a huge time commitment but also a wonderful experience.

If a swimmer’s times are good enough they get to travel from Winnipeg Canada all the way down to Orlando Florida.

“My season has been going okay. The first half was rough because I missed a lot of training to go on college visits” said senior Zach Johnson.

“As far as our team, I feel that we are doing very well so far,” said Johnson.

a means of transportation to enroll in classes at CTE Academy.

O’Gorman students too will have the opportunity to take classes at CTE Academy. According to Mr. Art Hagg, guidance counselor at O’Gorman, students enrolled in CTE Academy will still be required to meet O’Gorman’s academic requirements and each case will be assessed individually.

“As long as we can get it to fit a student’s schedule, we’ll work with students to fulfill their needs,” said Hagg. “We already have dual enrollment opportunities for students; this would be no different.”

According to Kayl, one of the new school’s few disadvantages lies in whether or not the Academy’s courses will fit into students’ schedules.

Despite this disadvantage, there are many advantages provided to students. For example, students involved in health science courses can participate in Project Lead the Way, which enables them to be a certified nursing assistant after passing the required exams.

Also, those involved in carpentry classes may have the opportunity to work with Habitat for Humanity in providing a home for a needy family.

“Habitat for Humanity is working on getting a grant to provide materials for a house,” said Kayl. “This would be a great service and learning experience for students.”

home side of the gym is always packed at basketball and volleyball games,” said Loe.

Yet, students are also open to improving their spirit.

“I believe if we had more of a togetherness in the school between classes and peers, then everyone would want to support each other,” said Allison Hosman, a sophomore at Custer High School. “I believe [improving spirit] would boost the school’s morale and improve tickets sold for other functions as well.”

The overall results of this part of the spirit series found that school spirit is not necessarily entirely different from one school than the next. Most schools tend to have average spirit, with sports consistently cited as the most supported activiteis in every school.

QUIETDRIVE  
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product you want to try and make the next one even better,” said Truckenmiller.

The band’s goal for their work is simply to continue to make music and hope that they can work with the group Oasis and rapper T-Pain.

“I’d like to work with Oasis because they write all of their own stuff, and I think it would be cool to co-write something,” said Truckenmiller “I’d like to work with T-Pain, because the production process with him is really cool.”

Quietdrive is currently on tour in the country of Japan. Truckenmiller says it is a fun experience to tour in a country with a culture that is so different than that of America.

“They have such a respect for us over in Japan,” said Truckenmiller. “I think it’s really cool that even with the language barrier being there, that we still have music in common.

As for the rest of 2010, the band plans to return to the United States later this year, hopefully including a show in Sioux Falls this April. After they finish the tour of the States the band plans to take a break and start writing the group’s fourth record.

Despite all the hard work and drawbacks that come with a career as a recording artist, Truckenmiller would not change a thing.

“Mistakes are things that we learn from,” said Truckenmiller “I wouldn’t want to change them because I would not have had a chance to learn from them if I did.”



PRESS PHOTO

Bandaged style dresses are one of the many stylish options available to girls this Formal.

FASHION  
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avoid showing off too much skin!

Feathers and floral patterns are also adorable this year. However, too many feathers may make you look like a peacock so keep them to a minimum.

Floral patterns can be found in many fun and creative designs and can be matched with all sorts of fun and colorful jewelry.

If going with a short dress, try nude heels to make your legs look longer. Also, gladiator heels are big this season and look adorable with any short dress.

If you are fair-skinned, avoid pale colors because you may get washed out in photos.

This year’s Valentine’s Day event is going to be a hit so make sure you pick out the right dress in order to make Formal a success!





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